

PURSUIT of God, Pt. 3

1 COR. 2.4-10

I. Attributes of God's Personal Nature

A. Attributes of God's Person

1. Spirit
2. Invisible
3. Immaterial
4. Living
5. Personal
6. Unique
7. One
8. Triune

B. Attribute's of God's Nature

1. Eternal/Everlasting
2. Infinite
3. Omniscient
4. Omnipresent
5. Omnipotent
6. Immortal
7. Immutable

Mankind, faced with the knowledge of a God who demands accountability of His creation and who holds out the prospect of certain judgment at the end of time, did the only thing he could do to solve the problem – he rejected God.

Romans 1:21 ...although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

To say that we believe in God without having a biblical basis for our beliefs is basically a form of idolatry, because, without the biblical basis, we are worshipping a god that is a creation of our own imagination.

Job 11:7 (Zophar, advisor of Job) Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? 8 It is higher than heaven – what can you do? Deeper than Sheol – what can you know? 9 Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

The knowledge of God that is beyond the reach of man's ability to know except that God himself had already determined before the creation of the world to reveal by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 2:10 ...but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God...16 For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Father has revealed Himself to us through the person of the Son and through the written word of the Bible.

II. Attributes of God's Moral Nature

A. H_____ – the essential moral characteristic of God

Ps 99:9 ...the LORD our God is holy!

1 Sam. 2:2 There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Isa 57:15 tells us that God's very name is Holy.

Isaiah 6:3 And one (seraphim) called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

God's holiness is three times repeated for the purpose of declaring His holiness to be absolute and perfectly true.

1 Peter 1:15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Because of His holiness, God cannot tolerate sin in any form or in any place.

Psalms 5:4 You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with you.

Sin is so abhorrent to God that it extends even to the person who persists in it – who refuses to repent and accept the mercy God offers.

Psalms 5:5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all who do iniquity.

Psalms 11:5 The LORD examines both the righteous and the wicked. He hates those who love violence.

Prov. 6:16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

While it is true that God is love and full of mercy and grace, He is equally filled with righteousness and Justice.

Holiness is an inward character of God and because He is holy, He is also righteous and just in His outward dealings with man.

B. R_____ /Just

In the Bible, these two words are representative of a single Hebrew word and a single Greek word.

Ezra 9:15 O LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous!

Psalms 116:5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous...

Psalms 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness...

Psalms 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

John 17:25 O righteous Father...

The righteousness of God is that attribute which defines as right that which God does.

God cannot sin and therefore cannot choose to do what is wrong. He does not have to make a choice between right and wrong because He is sovereign over all and determines within Himself what is right and wrong.

Deut. 32:4 (He is) a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

C. W_____

God's attributes of wrath and jealousy are directly related to His attributes of holiness and righteousness.

We have seen that God abhors not only the sin, but also the sinner who rejects His gracious hand of mercy and persists in the practice of sin and rebellion.

There are more references in the Bible to God's wrath, anger, and fury than to His love and tenderness. (A.W. Pink)

God's wrath is as much an attribute of God as is His love and grace and mercy.

Ex. 34:6 The LORD passed before him (Moses on Mt. Sinai) and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

Up to this point, this is the God we love to know and to talk about, but God continues...

...but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

God does not punish the third and fourth generations for the sins of the fathers, but His wrath is so strong against the fathers that it is generations before the effect of His wrath is dissipated.

God's wrath is His response to r_____.

Deut. 9:7 Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

It is His response to i_____.

2 Chron. 24:18 And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

God must be provoked and driven before He releases His wrath.

2 Chron. 36:16 ...they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

Ezra 5:12 ...after our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath (by their idolatry and rebellion), He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried the people away into Babylon.

God's wrath in the New Testament:

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

The NT refers to the wrath of God ten times, including the last time it is referenced in the Book of the Revelation talking about Christ Jesus coming in judgment...

Rev. 19:15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

D. J _____

The Bible makes ten references to God's jealousy.

Deut. 4:24 ...the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Nahum 1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

It is such an integral part of who God is that it is even included in the Ten Commandments.

Ex 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Jealousy in the manner in which God applies it is not a sin, but a response to the unfailing love He has for His people.

Ezekiel 39:25 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name.

God's is jealous for those that He loves.

E. The R_____

Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Deut. 32:18 You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

Deut. 32:30 How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had given them up? 31 For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.

1 Sam. 2:2 There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

2 Sam. 22:2 He said, "The LORD is my Rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 3 my God, my Rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my Savior; you save me from violence.

2 Sam. 22:32 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a Rock, except our God?... 47 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,

2 Sam. 23:3 The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has spoken to me...

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold... 31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?... 46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation...

Other references to God as our Rock in Psalms:

Psalm 28:1:1; 31:2,3; 42:9; 62:2, 6, 7; 71:3; 78:35; 89:26; 92:15; 94:22; 95:1

1 Cor. 10:1 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,

2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Resources

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